



USDA – National
Agricultural Statistics
Service, Tennessee
Field Office



Cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture

Debra K. Kenerson, Director

Ken Givens, Commissioner

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn> nass-tn@nass.usda.gov Phone 1-800-626-0987

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Week Ending September 17, 2006

COTTON HARVEST STARTS

Harvest of the state’s cotton crop, projected at a record 1.25 million bales, got underway on a limited basis last week. Producers continued to prepare for harvest by defoliating an additional 10 percent of the cotton acreage. Corn producers made excellent strides last week as well, harvesting an additional fifth of the state’s acreage. With grain harvest ahead of normal, yields were being reported as highly variable depending on location. Tobacco growers also took advantage of last week’s favorable weather to continue harvest. Currently, three-fourths of the burley acreage has been harvested, on pace with normal. Over half of the soybean crop was dropping leaves with 13 percent harvested. Pastures in many areas of Middle and East Tennessee continued to be very dry and are in need of a good soaking rain. Dry conditions in these areas have delayed fall seedings and some cattle producers have been feeding hay, hauling water, and selling cattle. Producers also took advantage of last week’s 6 days suitable for fieldwork to harvest hay and apply fertilizer.

As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 16 percent very short, 29 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 18 percent very short, 32 percent short, 49 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Temperatures across the state averaged near normal in the west, slightly above normal in middle Tennessee, and around 2 degrees below normal in the East and Plateau regions last week. Precipitation was above normal across western portions of the State and below average elsewhere.

| CROP PROGRESS: Through September 17, 2006 | | | | | CONDITION: On September 15, 2006 | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | 2005 | Five Year Avg. | Item | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Percent | | | | | Percent | | | | | |
| Corn Mature | 98 | 91 | 91 | 93 | Cotton | 2 | 4 | 19 | 58 | 17 |
| Corn Harvested for Grain | 57 | 37 | 37 | 51 | Pastures | 15 | 21 | 32 | 29 | 3 |
| Corn Harvested for Silage | 92 | 84 | 91 | 92 | Soybeans | 4 | 10 | 22 | 49 | 15 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 75 | 56 | 71 | 64 | | | | | | |
| Cotton Defoliated | 20 | 10 | 29 | 28 | | | | | | |
| Cotton Harvested | 2 | n/a | 2 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 52 | 38 | 62 | 39 | | | | | | |
| Soybeans Harvested | 13 | 6 | 13 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Burley Tobacco Harvested | 75 | 62 | 76 | 77 | | | | | | |
| Air-Cured Tobacco Harvested | 87 | 85 | 83 | 88 | | | | | | |
| Fire-Cured Tobacco Harvested | 82 | 72 | 76 | 79 | | | | | | |

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Corn harvest is progressing but slowly due to intermittent showers and slow, dry down conditions. Early maturity group soybean harvest started up this week. Excellent yields in corn being reported. Soybean yields good as well. Cotton yet to be determined.”

Tim Campbell, Dyer County

“The farmers in Fayette County were able to make good progress on harvesting their corn and beans. Producers were also putting out defoliation and a few started picking cotton this week. Hay fields are being cut as well.”

Jeffery D. Via, Fayette County

“Giles County is extremely dry in most parts. Most livestock producers have been feeding hay for a few weeks now. Water is becoming critical. One dairy producer is hauling 10,000 gallons a day. Others are reporting springs dried up that have been running for years. Local livestock market had a 35% increase in the number of cattle sold this week. Not much hay for sale. Hay stocks are expected to be very short this winter.”

Kevin Rose, Giles County

“All forage crops have responded quite nicely to the recent rains. Producers are completing the last cutting of hay. Hay supplies are below average but should be adequate for most operations.”

Bob Sliger, Monroe County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
 For week ending: September 17, 2006 (with comparisons)

| LOCATION | TEMPERATURE | | | | PRECIPITATION | | | | GDD BASE 60F Since April 1 | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| | Week Ending September 17, 2006 | | | | Current Week 09/17/06 | Rain Days | Current Since January 1 | Departure From Normal | | |
| | HI | LO | AVG | DFN | | | | | Total | DFN |
| Ames_Plantation | 93 | 53 | 72 | 0 | 0.65 | 2 | 33.87 | -3.74 | 2585 | 362 |
| Tri-City_RGNL_A | 83 | 51 | 67 | -3 | 0.74 | 3 | 31.00 | 0.59 | 1704 | 169 |
| Brownsville_TN | 91 | 56 | 73 | -1 | 0.47 | 3 | 32.96 | -4.62 | 2655 | 679 |
| Chattanooga/Lov | 89 | 57 | 72 | -1 | 0.43 | 3 | 30.36 | -8.35 | 2598 | 470 |
| Clarksville_Sew | 88 | 56 | 72 | 2 | 1.02 | 3 | 31.88 | -4.45 | 2385 | 393 |
| Cookeville | 87 | 52 | 69 | -2 | 0.43 | 2 | 36.37 | -4.96 | 1941 | 692 |
| Covington | 89 | 55 | 71 | -2 | 0.92 | 1 | 36.09 | -0.61 | 2411 | 146 |
| Crossville_AP | 82 | 50 | 66 | -2 | 0.20 | 2 | 33.15 | -7.33 | 1745 | 328 |
| Dayton | 84 | 53 | 69 | -3 | 0.68 | 2 | 29.78 | -10.83 | 2108 | 218 |
| Dickson_AG | 87 | 48 | 69 | -3 | 0.48 | 2 | 39.80 | 0.98 | 2030 | -45 |
| Dover_1W | 86 | 55 | 70 | -1 | 0.27 | 1 | 32.99 | -4.71 | 2184 | 411 |
| Dyersburg | 90 | 55 | 72 | -1 | 0.40 | 2 | 34.33 | -1.55 | 2614 | 211 |
| Erwin_1W | 81 | 52 | 66 | -1 | 0.86 | 2 | 39.45 | 2.57 | 1674 | -148 |
| Huntingdon_Wate | 88 | 55 | 70 | -2 | 0.68 | 3 | 37.53 | -0.38 | 2343 | 454 |
| Jackson_Exp_Stn | 90 | 54 | 72 | -1 | 0.19 | 3 | 33.09 | -4.20 | 2525 | 353 |
| Kingston_AG | 84 | 55 | 69 | 0 | 0.45 | 2 | 39.03 | -3.39 | 2127 | 483 |
| Knoxville_AP | 84 | 57 | 70 | -2 | 0.29 | 1 | 32.34 | -2.36 | 2311 | 468 |
| Lewisburg | 91 | 48 | 70 | -1 | 0.19 | 1 | 32.97 | -6.33 | 2231 | 376 |
| Lexington_TN | 90 | 52 | 70 | -3 | 0.71 | 2 | 39.91 | 3.59 | 2292 | 952 |
| Linden | 89 | 51 | 70 | -1 | 0.68 | 2 | 36.46 | -3.41 | 2248 | 382 |
| Martin | 89 | 55 | 71 | -1 | 0.85 | 3 | 39.53 | 1.71 | 2350 | 270 |
| Mc_Minnville_Tn | 86 | 52 | 71 | -1 | 0.03 | 2 | 37.61 | -0.99 | 2257 | -46 |
| Memphis_AG | 95 | 55 | 74 | -1 | 0.14 | 2 | 31.97 | -4.80 | 2795 | 111 |
| Milan | 90 | 50 | 70 | -2 | 0.36 | 3 | 35.17 | -3.76 | 2377 | 345 |
| Murfreesboro_5N | 90 | 52 | 71 | -1 | 0.20 | 1 | 37.91 | -0.64 | 2282 | -14 |
| Nashville_Metro | 91 | 57 | 73 | 2 | 0.45 | 1 | 31.83 | -2.70 | 2583 | 399 |
| Newcomb | 82 | 53 | 67 | 1 | 0.45 | 1 | 37.31 | -2.59 | 1743 | 408 |
| Oneida | 82 | 53 | 67 | 0 | 0.61 | 3 | 39.30 | -0.60 | 1759 | -203 |
| Portland_TN | 86 | 56 | 69 | -1 | 0.64 | 2 | 31.43 | -5.91 | 2120 | 305 |
| Pulaski_Water_P | 91 | 51 | 70 | -3 | 0.26 | 2 | 34.27 | -5.18 | 2333 | 160 |
| Savannah_6SW | 91 | 53 | 72 | -2 | 0.54 | 2 | 36.78 | -3.81 | 2539 | 615 |
| Sparta_TN | 88 | 49 | 70 | 1 | 0.19 | 3 | 37.02 | -2.85 | 2177 | 611 |
| Springfield | 88 | 51 | 69 | -2 | 0.47 | 2 | 35.23 | -0.60 | 2004 | 187 |
| Springhill | 90 | 50 | 69 | -2 | 0.32 | 2 | 33.93 | -5.46 | 2283 | 434 |
| Union_City | 88 | 53 | 70 | -2 | 0.95 | 2 | 39.55 | 2.69 | 2203 | 187 |
| Waynesboro_TN | 89 | 49 | 70 | 0 | 0.35 | 2 | 37.06 | -4.32 | 2106 | 17 |

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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